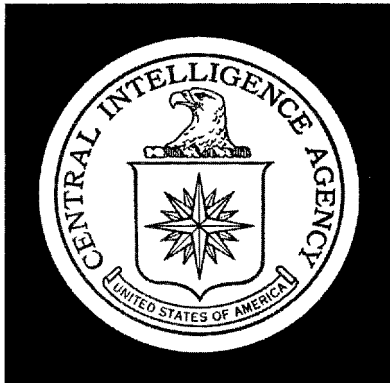


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DIA and DOS review(s) completed.

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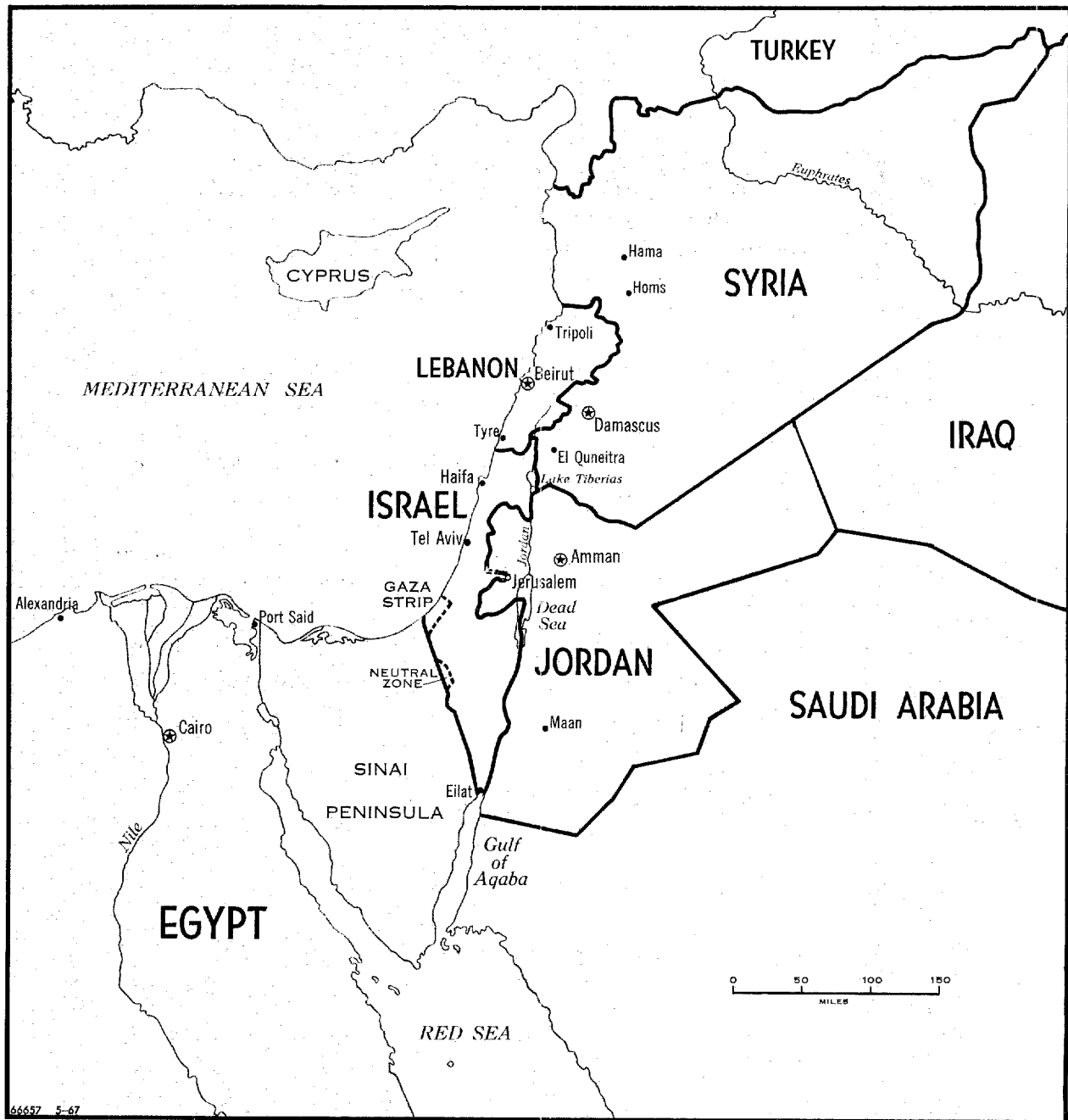
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*Israel-Egypt-Syria: The situation along the Israeli-Egyptian border has become more ominous as a result of troop movements on both sides and the impending departure of the UN Emergency Force (UNEF).

Elements of an Egyptian division, including tanks and artillery, have reinforced the 30,000 troops normally stationed in the Sinai Peninsula. Other units are moving toward the Suez Canal. A mobilization of reserves appears to be in full swing, the US defense attaché in Cairo has reported. There is no evidence, however, that these moves are other than defensive.

Israel has responded with "appropriate measures." Senior Israeli officials are saying that their build-up of military forces in the south is only precautionary and that they have no intention of initiating any action. They have repeated that the situation can remain quiet as long as the Syrians restrain Palestinian saboteurs from making forays into Israel.



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(continued)

* Because of the shortage of time for preparation of this item, the analytic interpretation presented here has been produced by the Central Intelligence Agency without the participation of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State or of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense.

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Although neither Egypt nor Israel appears to have aggressive intentions, the danger of a confrontation probably will increase after the departure of the UNEF from the Egyptian side of the frontier. U Thant reportedly will tell the General Assembly today that he is acceding to Egypt's demand for the withdrawal of the 3,500-man force. Cairo has requested that the UN troops leave "as soon as possible." The Egyptians apparently felt compelled to demand the complete withdrawal of the UNEF after U Thant refused to concentrate it in the Gaza Strip.

The Israelis will be especially alarmed by the departure of the UNEF contingent at the entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba, through which Israel receives oil from Iran. Before the 1956 Sinai war, an Egyptian force stationed there prevented Israeli shipping from reaching Eilat.

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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

Military Developments in South Vietnam: US Marine and ARVN units have launched two major new coordinated ground operations in northern Quang Tri Province.

Operation BEAU CHARGER, a one-battalion amphibious and heliborne assault by US Marines, and Operation HICKORY, involving four US Marine battalions and five ARVN battalions, commenced on 17 May in an effort to relieve the intense North Vietnamese Army (NVA) pressure on allied positions in northeastern Quang Tri Province.

The two-pronged offensive is designed to search out and destroy the estimated 9,000 NVA regulars in the area. Initial reports indicate heavy contact between two Marine battalions in Operation HICKORY and two NVA battalions northwest of Con Thien along the Demilitarized Zone.

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Communist China - Hong Kong: Peking is emphasizing its strong support for the leftist campaign now being carried on against the Hong Kong Government.

Yesterday, Radio Peking warned that conditions in Hong Kong had "worsened" because the British authorities were showing "no sincere desire" to ease the "grave situation." On the same day, Chou En-lai and other top Chinese officials attended a mass rally held in the capital to condemn British actions.

The principal speaker at the rally, Minister of Public Security Hsieh Fu-chih, repeatedly accused the Hong Kong authorities of "collusion" with the Chinese Nationalists. This suggests that Peking may broaden its demands on the British to include the suppression of Nationalist activities in the colony, a course followed by the Chinese in their pressure on Macao last winter.

In Hong Kong, the Communists are continuing moves against the British authorities. Well-disciplined demonstrations were held yesterday outside Government House, but the police remained in the background and no incidents occurred. The Communists are also making a substantial effort to induce police defections.

A British official has told the US Consulate General in Hong Kong that the basic strategy of the authorities, with London's concurrence, is to remain as firm as possible and to attempt to wear the Communists down. The Hong Kong Government is currently operating on the assumption that Peking does not want to take the colony physically and that the British have little to lose and much to gain by refusing to give an inch.

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UK-USSR: Foreign Secretary Brown's trip to Moscow on 19-23 May will probably do little more than maintain high-level diplomatic contact.

Brown may continue the exploration of Soviet thinking on a mutual reduction of NATO and Warsaw Pact troops in Europe. This exchange was begun by Prime Minister Wilson during Kosygin's visit to London in February. Britain's NATO partners have been told that he may do this, and they appear interested in the possibilities, but insist that London act on its own and not speak for the organization. Brown would probably suggest that the Soviets follow the example of the proposed US and UK redeployments rather than seek a formal agreement. The Soviets will probably avoid meaningful discussion of this topic.

According to a Foreign Office official, the proposed Anglo-Soviet friendship treaty probably will not be signed on this occasion. Moscow has not yet commented on the British draft, but British officials expect the Soviets will present a counterdraft. An agreement on economic and technical cooperation, discussed when Minister of Technology Wedgewood Benn was in Moscow last month, may be signed.

London believes that the recent hardening of Moscow's attitude toward the US makes unlikely any progress regarding the Vietnam problem, but Brown will try to sound out Soviet intentions.

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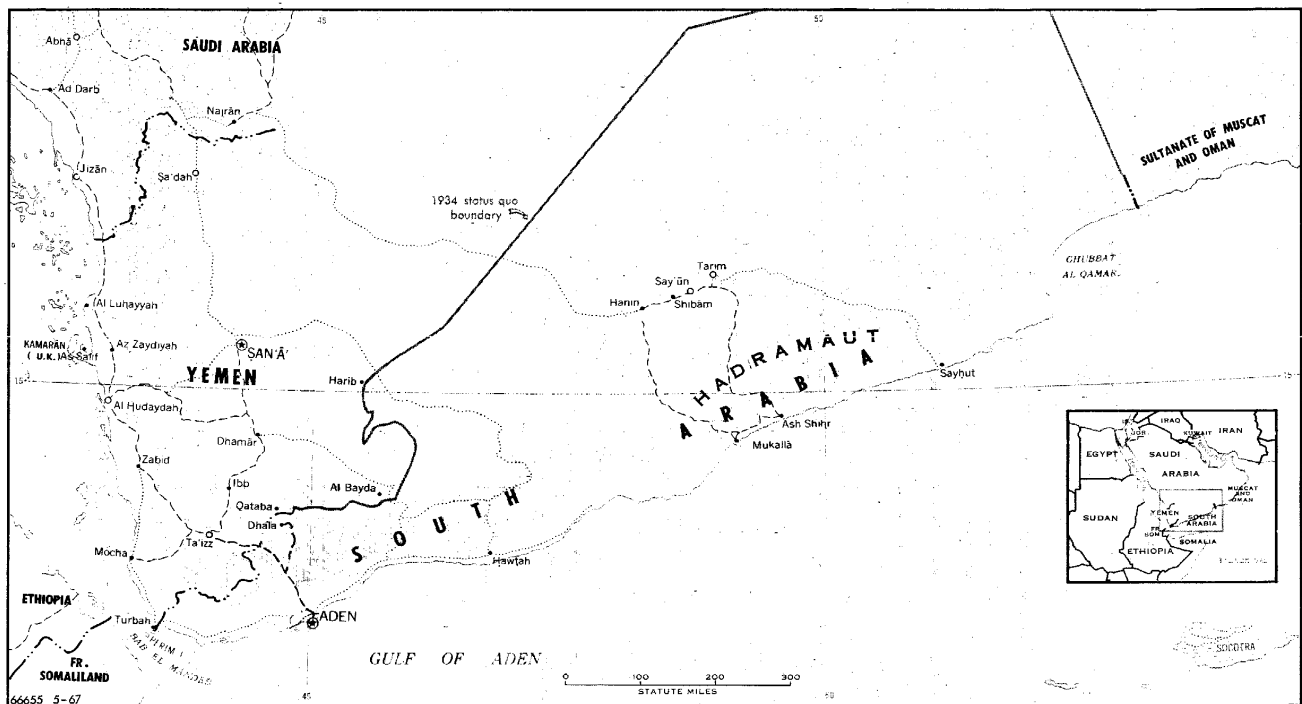
*(Information as of 5:00 AM EDT) According to press reports from London, a British spokesman has announced a postponement of Brown's trip because of the tense situation in the Middle East.

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South Arabia: Nationalist terrorists may be starting a campaign against British officials in Hadramaut. On 16 May a bazooka and machine-gun attack was made against the British Residency in Mukalla and against the radio station of the Hadrami Bedouin Legion, the British local security force. In Aden itself the number of terrorist attacks, while still high, has declined somewhat this week, due perhaps to the absence of terrorist leaders and a degree of internal indecision over policy. Sir Humphrey Trevelyan, who has long experience in negotiations with the Arabs, is taking over as British high commissioner.

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Venezuela: Guerrillas ambushed a truck convoy on 17 May near the site of the Cuban-supported landing on 8 May, killing four soldiers. The government has reinforced its military units in that area and new antiguerrilla efforts were begun there in the past few days.

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The ambush can be expected to strengthen Venezuelan determination to take strong action against Cuba.

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